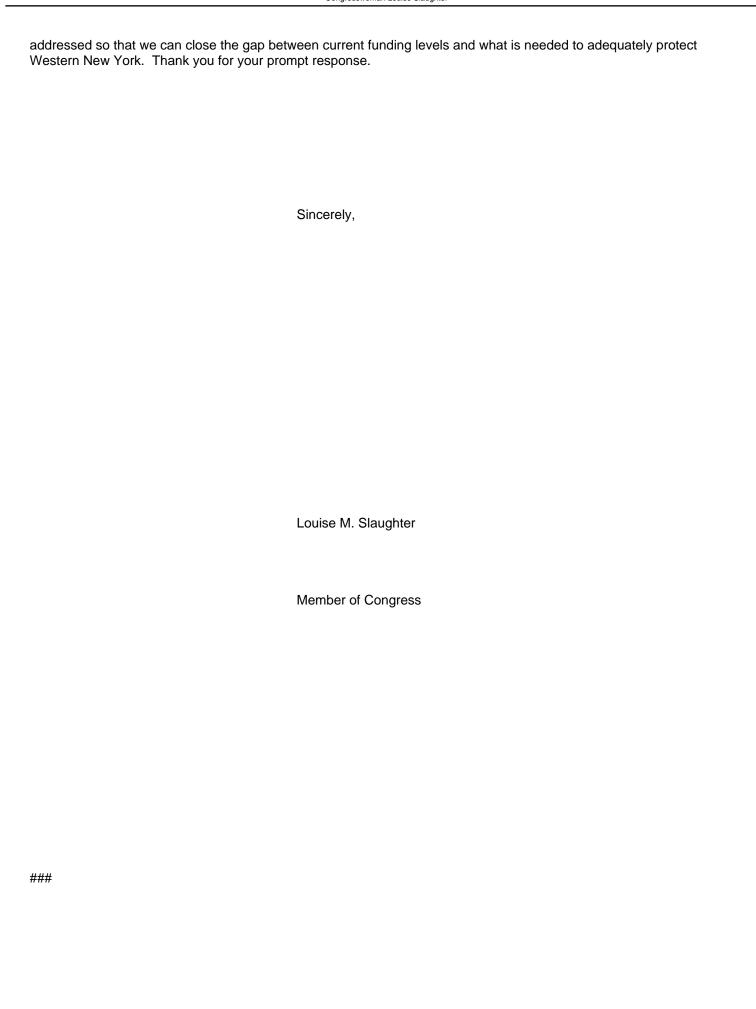


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The full text of the letter follows:
Dear Secretary Chertoff,
I am writing to you with great urgency to invite you to visit the Buffalo-Niagara region to review critical homeland security needs.
I remain very concerned that the Buffalo-Niagara region's Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funds, which are the main source of federal homeland security dollars for the area, have been cut from \$7.2 million in FY 2005 to a projected \$3.7 million in FY 2006. I believe that by touring Buffalo-Niagara you will see first-hand the severe flaws of the UASI formula in determining the region's threats and funding needs. It is my understanding that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) limited the evaluation of the area's risks to Buffalo and an arbitrary 10 mile radius around the city. This means that your agency failed to take into account a number of threats and critical infrastructure, including the Niagara Power Project, the region's five international bridges, and over 600 chemical and hazardous materials facilities in the area. Each of these sites are potential terrorist targets.
In addition, DHS announced in January that Buffalo-Niagara would no longer qualify for new UASI funding, and that any funds granted in FY 2006 would be sustainment funding for current projects. I have been seeking answers from DHS since January on why Buffalo-Niagara's eligibility has been restricted to sustainment funding. On April 21, 2006, I sent a formal letter asking for a meeting with you to discuss UASI funding, and followed-up on May 18, 2006 with a request that DHS provide me with a classified briefing. Despite the seriousness of this issue, these requests have gone unanswered.
Accordingly. I respectfully request that you accord my invitation to tour the region and its key landwarks and
Accordingly, I respectfully request that you accept my invitation to tour the region and its key landmarks and infrastructure. I am confident that a personal visit to the region will make it clearly evident that the Buffalo-Niagara region is not receiving the support it needs from your agency. It is critically important that the flaws in UASI formula be

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